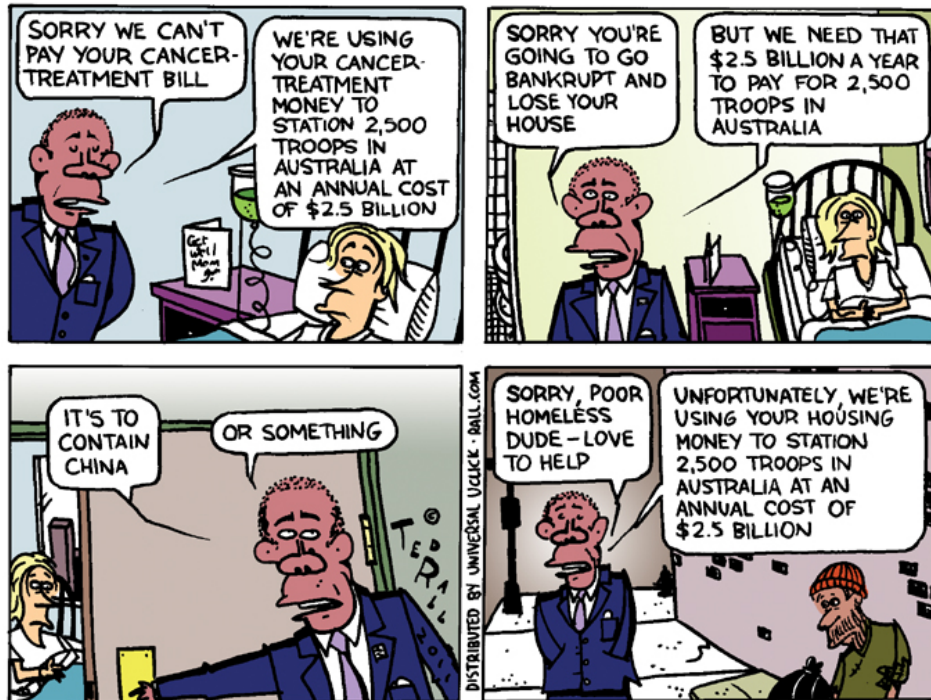


Military Resistance 9L6



**Bankruptcy At American
Airlines Shouldn't Be Allowed
To Fly:**

**“If We Had A President We Could
Believe In, He Would Not Only Call
Out The National Guard To Protect
The Constitutional Rights Of
Citizens At Occupy Protests”**

**“He Would Defend The Vested
Benefits Earned By Workers With The
Full Moral And Institutional Authority
Of His Office”
“It Won’t Happen”
“Capitalism Isn’t Above The Law In The
United States, It Is The Law”**

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, who sent this in.]

Peace and solidarity activists are hounded, harassed, and arrested but the forcible transfer of wealth from the working class to the investing class is protected concerted activity.

Dec 5 By Gregg Shotwell, Soldiers Of Solidarity

Gregg Shotwell, a retired 29-year veteran of General Motors and Delphi and a United Auto Workers activist, is the author of the forthcoming Autoworkers Under the Gun: Live Bait & Ammo, a collection of shop-floor newsletters he produced while at GM and Delphi.

When Steve Miller, the vulture capitalist who drove Delphi into the ditch of America’s dreams, declared, “Bankruptcy is a growth industry,” he was smiling, but he wasn’t joking.

Bankruptcy in the US isn’t a sign of economic distress or mismanagement, it’s a business plan: calculated, cunning, and void of redeeming social value.

American Airlines is the latest in a long line of financial obscenities that make vulture capitalists salivate.

If we had a president we could believe in, he would not only call out the National Guard to protect the Constitutional rights of citizens at Occupy protests, he would defend the vested benefits earned by workers with the full moral and institutional authority of his office.

It won’t happen.

We must cease and desist from unrealistic expectations and mount our own counteroffensive.

US courts routinely aid and abet the extortion of workers and the plunder of pension plans.

Capitalism isn't above the law in the United States, it is the law.

Peace and solidarity activists are hounded, harassed, and arrested but the forcible transfer of wealth from the working class to the investing class is protected concerted activity.

American Airlines' debt doesn't outweigh its cash and assets.

In fact, American Airlines is financing its own bankruptcy.

That's not distress, it's brass knuckle union busting.

The business press makes no bones about American Airlines' plan to profit off the broken backs of labor contracts. In fact, they crow about it.

American Airlines ordered 460 new planes from Boeing and Airbus less than five months ago at a cost of \$38 billion.

Those contracts will be honored even as American Airlines plans to dump pensions underfunded by about \$10 Billion for approximately 130,000 workers and retirees.

American Airlines doesn't pretend to offer a business plan that promises better management.

The only benefits American Airlines purports to extract from bankruptcy are pension evasion, and concessions from unions facing a court ordered firing squad.

The crib notes for this business plan read: bankruptcy = profit. The longhand reveals the moral compunction of a crocodile.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp (PBGC) estimates that a default at American Airlines could be the largest in US history.

The PBGC itself is teetering on the edge of insolvency. In 2004 a report by the Center on Federal Financial Institutions said the PBGC "is insolvent on the basis of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and would be shut down if it were a private insurer."

That was before the PBGC absorbed \$6.2 billion in pension obligations from Delphi.

US bankruptcy courts protect the assets of US corporations invested outside the United States from creditors. You can bet your mother's paycheck American Airlines' parent company, AMR Corp., has cash and assets stashed in ports all over the world.

Labor has a legitimate lien on Capital. A pension isn't an entitlement, an investment, or a gamble, it's earned with hard steadfast work.

A company that cancels its pension obligations should not be permitted to profit from the trade off.

The trend toward bankruptcy as a growth industry in the United States is a clear indication that we aren't in a recession.

We are experiencing a restructuring at the expense of everyone who works for a living.

We won't win this struggle in court. The operable word for rank and file workers isn't competition, concession, or compromise. The operable word is "Occupy."

Bankruptcy at American Airlines shouldn't be allowed to fly.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN MILITARY SERVICE?

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly.

Whether in Afghanistan, Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the wars and economic injustice, inside the armed services and at home.

Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657. Phone: 888.711.2550

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Cpl. Dies In Germany From Afghanistan Wounds

Dec 6, 2011 The Associated Press

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — A soldier from Idaho Falls has died from injuries sustained in an explosion in Afghanistan, family members say.

Lisa Pardonnet said her nephew, 28-year-old Army Cpl. Ryan Sharp, died Saturday at a hospital in Germany.

Pardonnet said Sharp was scheduled to finish his third and final tour for the Army next year. He was taking part in a mission in the Kandahar province when the bomb exploded, wounding his legs, shoulder and head. Doctors in Afghanistan induced a coma and then transferred him to Germany for treatment.

Sharp's sister, Michelle Harrison, said Sharp is survived by his two young daughters, 6-year-old Mia and 8-year-old Sarah.

The family has established the Ryan D. Sharp Memorial Fund at the WestMark Credit Union to help cover the girls' expenses.

**POLITICIANS CAN'T BE COUNTED ON
TO HALT THE BLOODSHED
THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO
STOP THE WARS**

**U.S. Military's Afghan Headache
-- \$400-A-Gallon Gasoline:
Military Air Drops To U.S. Troops
Up 50% In A Year As Road Supply
Option Pinched Off By Insurgent
Attacks;
"They (Troops) Are In Places Where
Getting Them Their Supplies Is Very
Risky To Go By Land Conveyance"
"So They've Become More And More
Dependent On Our Airdrop"**



Nathan Hodge/The Wall Street Journal

[Thanks to Felicity Arbutnot who sent this in. She writes: “Oh dear, the law of unintended consequences. Oh well, “stuff happens.”]

Last year, they delivered around 60 million pounds by airdrop. By the end of this year, officials say, they expect to drop around 90 million pounds of food, water, ammunition and fuel to bases in the country.

DECEMBER 6, 2011 By NATHAN HODGE, Wall Street Journal [Excerpts]

OVER EASTERN AFGHANISTAN—Parachuting a barrel of fuel to a remote Afghan base takes sharp flying skills, steady nerves and flawless timing.

It also costs a lot of money—up to \$400 a gallon, by military estimates.

But the Pentagon is stuck with the expense for the foreseeable future, especially given the recent deterioration in U.S.-Pakistani relations.

“We’re going to burn a lot of gas to drop a lot of gas,” said Capt. Zack Albaugh, a California Air National Guard pilot deployed with the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

Such security issues were addressed Monday at an international meeting over Afghanistan in Bonn, Germany, where President Hamid Karzai appealed for continuing international funding well after most coalition forces withdraw in 2014.

But for now, nearly 100,000 U.S. troops are on the ground in Afghanistan, often stationed in difficult-to-reach outposts that depend on pallets of food, water, ammunition and fuel that are dropped by parachute out of cargo planes.

Since 2005, the Air Force has increased by nearly 50 times the amount of supplies it air-drops to remote bases, partly as a way to avoid dangerous land-based fuel convoys.

The astronomical expense represents the “fully burdened” costs of fuel, including transportation and security.

On Capt. Albaugh’s run, two C-130 cargo planes flew in close formation, hugging the Pakistani border as they circled toward their target. The drop zone — the general area where the troops will pick up their cargo — was about the length of three football fields. Within that zone, the crew of the C-130 aimed to hit a smaller target: 60-feet-by-150 feet.

As the planes approached, a voice crackled over the radio network warning everyone else to stand by: “Everyone stay off the net for the next 10 mikes (minutes) until the bird drops.”

The planes dipped over the landscape, laden with pallets of fuel. A small parachute deployed from each C-130’s cargo door, sending 34,000 pounds of fuel clattering across the loading ramp, like the Coney Island Cyclone.

In the sky, parachutes blossomed, and the crates floated to the ground below.

Aircrews based in Afghanistan fly missions around the clock to keep troops on the ground supplied.

“We’ve been pretty busy,” said Capt. Jose Ariza, Capt. Albaugh’s crewmate.

The sheer volume of air-dropped cargo is swiftly rising. In 2005, Air Force planes dropped around two million pounds of supplies to troops in Afghanistan.

Last year, they delivered around 60 million pounds by airdrop. By the end of this year, officials say, they expect to drop around 90 million pounds of food, water, ammunition and fuel to bases in the country.

Air Force Gen. Raymond Johns, who heads the service’s Air Mobility Command, said the December 2009 surge in U.S. troops has made resupply more challenging, particularly because of the threat of roadside bombs.

“They (troops) are in places where getting them their supplies is very risky to go by land conveyance,” he said. “So they’ve become more and more dependent on our airdrop.”

This particular launch was successful: a total of 36 bundles reached the drop zone.

But two parachutes did not fully open, and pallets stacked with barrels of fuel slammed into the ground, lost or badly damaged—“burned in,” as crews say.

“That’s the cost of doing business,” said Lt. Col. Bill Willson, the squadron’s commander.

A single airdrop represents the tail end of a complex supply chain. The U.S. military has multiple routes to keep supplies delivered to landlocked Afghanistan, and had been working to reduce dependence on supply routes that go through Pakistan before last month border closing.

“If you want us to drop something on a postage stamp, by God we’ll do it,” said Maj. Richard Carter, a C-17 pilot, on a recent cargo flight to Afghanistan. “But there’s only so many crews.”

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

Resistance Action



(Graphic: London Financial Times)

Dec 2 (Reuters) & Dec 4 (Reuters) & Dec 5 (Reuters) & Dec 6 (Reuters)

DUJAIL - A sticky bomb attached to the car of Brigadier Ali Resool of the Federal Police blew up and wounded one of his guards in Dujail, 50 km (30 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. An hour later a bomb was placed outside of Resool’s house and seriously injured his son.

AL-ZAB - A sticky bomb attached to a policeman’s car went off and seriously wounded him in Al-Zab, about 35 km (20 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

SHIRQAT - Insurgents attacked a check point manned by government backed Sunni militia’s fighters of Sahwa killing three fighters and wounding two late on Thursday in Shirqat, 300 km (190 miles) north of Baghdad, a local police source said.

TUZ KHURMATO - One policeman was killed and five wounded, including four policemen in two roadside bombs in Tuz Khurmato, 170 km (105 miles) north of Baghdad, a local police source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off near a joint Iraqi army and police checkpoint, killing one soldier and wounding three soldiers and one policeman in Baghdad’s western outskirts of Abu Ghraib, police and hospital sources said. An interior ministry source said four soldiers were killed and two wounded.

MOSUL - Insurgents in a car shot at another vehicle carrying a police officer, killing him and wounding two of his security guards near the city of Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - Insurgents using silenced weapons wounded Iraqi army Brigadier General Ali Fadhil, and killed his wife, late on Saturday, while he was driving his car through a crossroads in Baghdad's northeastern Ur district, police said.

BAQUBA - A roadside bomb killed a policeman and wounded another in the northeastern outskirts of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

MILITARY NEWS

THIS IS HOW OBAMA BRINGS THEM HOME: ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The remains of Lance Cpl. Jason N. Barfield at Dover Air Force Base, Del. Oct. 26, 2011. Barfield, 22, of Ashford, Ala., died Oct. 24, 2011 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. (AP Photo/Steve Ruark)...

“Veterans Of The U.S. Armed Forces Who End Up In Prison Now Have Access To Special Dormitories”

10th November 2011 By Daily Mail Reporter [UK]

Veterans of the U.S. armed forces who end up in prison now have access to special dormitories - prompting accusations they are being given preferential treatment.

The criminal former soldiers can now ask to live together under one roof, where they have access to additional academic and vocational programs.

They can also receive counselling for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Five units have opened up in prisons across Florida - just in time for Veterans Day tomorrow.

The initiative has been hailed as ground-breaking - but has led to observations that ex-servicemen are being treated differently to other convicts.

Florida's Department of Corrections secretary Ken Tucker defended the project, and said: 'The military emphasizes pride, character and integrity.

'By housing veteran inmates in the same dorm before their release from prison, they can work together to recapture some of those qualities, while also learning about programs and benefits available specifically for veterans.'

He also revealed their daily life was wildly different to regular prisoners.

Veterans have to take part in raising the flag each morning, retiring it each evening, and also have to abide by strict military standards.

Their clothes, bunks and living standards have to be kept at the same level as if they were still serving.

Only those who were honourably discharged and are within three years of being released are eligible.

There are around 101,000 prisoners in Florida, with approximately 6,700 veterans among that number.

The units, which each house 400 inmates, are currently at the five prisons of Santa Rosa, Gulf, Martin, Sumter and Lowell.

State officials said veterans would not serve less time than they were sentenced to, and said housing the men in separate dormitories did not cost any extra.

Mr Tucker added: 'I think we are going to see a lot of the things we saw after Vietnam.

'PTSD is real and we have a lot of Iraq and Afghanistan vets returning right now who don't always want to talk about that.'

He said that if it made a difference in reducing the number of veterans who serve repeated prison sentences, it will have worked.

He said: 'They are having to live up to higher standards, military standards with clean language and in the condition they keep their dormitories.'

The Strange Death Of Jared Hagemann: “I Found That The Picture That Emerged From The Coffeehouse Press Conference And Media Accounts Was Incomplete And Inconsistent With Some Important Facts”



Jared Hagemann

Nov 9 2011 By Nina Shapiro, Seattle Weekly

Ashley Joppa-Hagemann arrives at a coffeehouse outside the gates of Joint Base Lewis-McChord carrying a toddler. With red streaks in her dark hair, two piercings below her lip, and an outfit of jeans, a T-shirt, and flip-flops, the 25-year-old looks impossibly young for the role she has recently assumed: widow.

Ashley is here for a late-September press conference about the “base on the brink,” as the gathered activists call it. Eleven soldiers stationed at JBLM have died in presumed suicides since the beginning of the year—all evidence, they say, that the military, despite

its professed desire to stop the stateside carnage that is afflicting its ranks, isn't serious about the problem.

There are veterans on the panel, including one with a moving story to tell about his post-battle mental-health problems. But on this September morning, Ashley's story holds the emotional center of the room.

On June 28, her husband, an Army Ranger named Jared Hagemann, was found lying in the bushes in a JBLM training area, a few feet away from his truck. Jared was dead, with a bullet wound to the head. And while the military hasn't ruled the death a suicide yet — two investigations are still underway — his wife says she is certain that he killed himself. She's also certain about who is to blame.

"The military did not take care of my husband," Ashley tells the assembled crowd, which includes reporters from KOMO-TV, KUOW, and the Los Angeles Times. Commanders "don't listen to the soldiers. They are not there for the soldiers. They are merely there to push these men to war."

As Ashley recounts, her husband said again and again that he was having problems, and couldn't face another deployment. By her reckoning, he had already served a staggering eight tours overseas, and was scheduled for another in August.

Yet, she says, "the military pretty much told him he couldn't leave." They didn't even allow him to get help. "That's just an excuse to get out of work," she says his commanders told him. If he wanted counseling, he'd have to do it on his own time.

"As a widow, it is my goal to make sure another family doesn't have to go through this," she continues before trailing off and starting again with a quiver in her voice. "Every day is a struggle now for me. But now I don't have my husband to help me."

The room goes quiet. One of the veterans on the panel seems to fight back tears. He goes on to cite Jared as a prime example of military neglect, and of its policy of returning traumatized soldiers to the battlefield, not once but repeatedly.

The assembled press, too, are quick to pick up on Jared's symbolic value at a time of spiraling soldier suicide rates, which have more than doubled nationally since 2001. Just this past July, the Army saw 32 suicides, a record.

"Widow: Ranger killed self to avoid another tour," read the Seattle Times headline that followed Jared's death. The story reached the UK via the Daily Mail, which ran it with a quote from Ashley about Jared's ostensible feelings of guilt for what he had done overseas: "There was no way that any God would forgive him."

I followed a similar story line for this paper in my initial reporting, quoting a national veterans'-rights group called March Forward! that said the Army refused to give Jared the help he sought over and over again.

March Forward! subsequently started an online petition to demand that Jared's chain of command be held accountable for his death.

But as I continued to research the story over the next few months, I found that the picture that emerged from the coffeehouse press conference and media accounts was incomplete and inconsistent with some important facts.

Among them: Jared wasn't stop-lossed or otherwise forced to stay in the Army.

He actually re-enlisted twice, most recently in January when he was in Afghanistan — his sixth deployment, not his eighth, according to the Army — and signed up for six more years.

A review of medical and police records, along with interviews with Ashley and those close to her and Jared, suggests that it's far too simplistic to blame his death entirely on military neglect and pressure.

Jared was haunted both by his wartime experience and by the situation he found himself in when he came back, shaped by self-destructive behavior, family strife, and an equally troubled economy that had no ready place for a soldier looking to put combat behind him.

"From the time he was a little boy, he always dreamed of being in the military." So reads Jared's obituary, written by his parents and run in *The Modesto Bee*, a paper which serves the small central-California town of Ripon where he grew up. (His parents did not respond to attempts to reach them.)

Jared graduated from Ripon High in 2004, just a year after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, and joined the military that November. Soon after basic training he became a Ranger, part of the Army's Special Operations Forces.

Posted to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, he went to a barbecue where he met a pretty young single mother, Ashley Joppa, who had just given birth a couple of months prior. They were both 19.

"He was very charming," recalls Ashley. "He was outgoing, an avid outdoorsman." And, she notes, his affiliation with the Rangers — elite units sent on especially dangerous missions — meant he didn't have to have a normal soldier's "stupid haircut."

Her mother, Heidi Joppa, remembers the first time she met her future son-in-law. She took to him immediately. "He was really a gentleman," she says. Her husband, who had spent more than 20 years in the Army, also formed a close friendship with the young soldier.

Within a year, the couple had wed. And in December 2005 he headed out on his first deployment, to Iraq.

Jared proved an excellent Ranger. One evaluator put him in the "top 10 percent of all junior NCOs I have seen over 13 years of service."

Accolades aside, according to Ashley, when her husband came home he was a different person. "His eyes were lifeless, like he was checked out," she says. "He turned to

substance abuse. He would not talk. He didn't really have any friends anymore. It was just me and him, and then me and the kids."

"Even going to the grocery store . . . he did not want to go," she says. "And if he did, he would have his .45 in his holster."

Ashley says he did eventually share a few of his experiences. On one occasion, a buddy took his spot on a mission and was killed. "That should have been me," she says he told her, crying.

On other occasions, she says, he had been sent to a house where a "person of interest" was said to dwell. He and his fellow Rangers would order everyone out, and find a crowd of mostly women and children, but also a few men with guns. Often, the person of interest was not among them.

"Put your weapons down or we'll have to shoot," the Rangers would announce nonetheless, as Ashley tells the story. Invariably, the men would hold onto their weapons, and the Rangers would shoot. "I don't fucking get it. All they had to do was put their guns down," Ashley says Jared told her, trembling.

She says her husband's most haunting moral quandaries, however, concerned Iraqi and Afghan children. The Rangers, she says her husband told her, were ordered to shoot gun-carrying youngsters, no matter how old, a point which a Rangers spokesperson vehemently disputes.

Ashley isn't precise about any particular incident, however. Indeed, when asked where Jared was during any given deployment, she can't remember.

"Afghanistan," she says at one point. "I don't know—one of them." At times, she seems dazed. "I'm sorry, where was I?" she'll say after stopping in mid-sentence. "There's just so much."

But whether or not he ever killed a child, something Jared experienced disturbed him deeply.

"Patient Is Low-Risk," Read A Note In His File. "Case Closed."

In May 2009, a week after his return from a tour in Afghanistan, he checked into JBLM's Madigan Army Medical Center. According to hospital records, he reported having "intrusive memories, nightmares . . . and emotional detachment starting following his first deployment and getting progressively worse through subsequent deployments." Also getting worse following his deployments (which by then numbered four) was his alcohol use. Worse, he had been having thoughts of killing himself.

Diagnosed with PTSD, Jared admitted he had been reluctant to seek care in the past. Now, however, he expressed interest in a virtual-reality program pioneered by Madigan. The computer simulation brings soldiers back to the battlefield in an attempt to get them to relive and overcome their trauma.

Yet by July, he had not signed up for the program, according to the records. Ashley says that's because his commanders wouldn't give him time to do so. Madigan apparently wasn't too concerned. "Patient is low-risk," read a note in his file. "Case closed."

After the press conference, reporters sidle up to Ashley. Scrapper than when the cameras were on, she acts like the kind of feisty blue-collar heroine Julia Roberts might play.

She tells a TV reporter about her attempts to get the military to hold a memorial service for Jared in addition to a funeral. An official, she relates, told her he understood her "concern."

"I told them: 'This isn't a concern. It's a demand. You meet it, or I'll have the media knocking on your front door.' "

After the reporters trickle out, she tells the guys at Coffee Strong — the antiwar coffeehouse run by veterans that is hosting the press conference — that she needs to feed 18-month-old Parker. She picks out a chocolate muffin from the pastry shelves and sits down with the toddler, who has been silently watching his mom. "Jared was the only one who could get him to talk," she says as he nibbles.

We've arranged to talk more at her house, so she leads Parker to her black Chrysler, on the rear window of which is written "RIP Jared Hagemann: November 5, 1985–June 28, 2011" in block letters. She points the car southwest toward Yelm, a bucolic town about a half-hour away from the base. It's a clear fall day, and the drive offers close-up views of Mount Rainier.

"On days like this, we used to go out into the woods and shoot," she tells me upon arriving home to a rambler in a gated community popular with military families and dotted with American flags.

Jared, she says, taught her how to use both his .45 pistol and then his .22 rifle.

Shortly after she enters the door, the phone rings. It's 60 Minutes, eager to interview her for a program about PTSD. Word about her husband's story has gotten out after an array of interviews with the local press and the progressive TV program Democracy Now, which took place after Ashley confronted Donald Rumsfeld.

The former defense secretary was signing copies of his memoir at JBLM when the Army widow approached. She presented him with her husband's funeral program and told the onetime hawk that her husband had gone to war because of his "lies."

Now she puts off 60 Minutes until later and turns, embarrassed, to her living room. It's cluttered with boxes, toys, and a diaper storage container, redolent of its contents. In the backyard, two dogs roam around knee-high weeds.

She seems annoyed by the mess, which she blames in part on a single mom she asked to move in to help her pay the bills. "I have no monthly income," she explains. She did get life-insurance money from the military, but says she put it into a savings account for Parker and her 6-year-old son, Noah. It's apparent, though, just how much she needs money now.

“Could you come back later?” she asks a Schwan’s driver when he pulls up with a grocery delivery, explaining that her roommate, who has food stamps, can pay when she gets home. “I got to work late anyway,” he amiably agrees.

Without the groceries, she and Parker tide themselves over for the afternoon with a bag of Frito-Lay party snacks. Noah, arriving home by school bus, fixes his own snack, putting a couple of hot dogs into the microwave and gobbling them down before heading out to play.

Then the phone rings again. This time it’s Noah’s school, reporting that the boy has been disruptive today. “Noah didn’t want to go to school,” Ashley explains to the administrator on the other end of the phone. Later she tells me why: The previous night she’d found her son sitting in the dark. “I miss Dad,” he said.

Ashley gets one final call before I leave for the afternoon. It’s from one of the Army investigators looking into Jared’s death. She steps into another room, but her voice carries into the living room. “I want everything wrapped up so I can heal and move with my kids,” she tells the investigator. “I don’t want to be around Fort Lewis anymore.”

Then she asks him something startling, something that hints at a whole other way of looking at her husband’s life and death.

Has the investigator talked to the woman who’s going around saying Ashley was having an affair and had somebody murder Jared? “Obviously, that’s ridiculous,” she says quickly.

“Even The Authorities Couldn’t Figure Out Whom To Believe”

When Jared returned from Afghanistan in the spring of 2009, he told Madigan staff that he came home to “nothing.” He and Ashley had been separated for seven months. His wife had also recently accused him of attempted rape, a charge which police were now investigating.

It’s not the picture one expects, given Ashley’s outpouring of grief.

Yet the Madigan records merely hint at the bitter and at times violent fighting between the couple. Ashley today insists she still loved her husband; she just couldn’t cope with the streak of violence he exhibited when he returned from war.

Whatever the truth, it’s not readily apparent from the extensive court and law-enforcement records that resulted from the couple’s discord.

At times, even the authorities couldn’t figure out whom to believe.

For instance, in the “attempted rape” case, Jared said he was a willing partner until he got out a condom, at which point she accused him of cheating on her.

Ashley’s story is dramatically different.

She told Yelm police that Jared, who weeks earlier had moved into a separate apartment, had come over to drop off a check and started aggressively making advances.

“Jared Charged Ashley With Using The Allegations To Coerce Him Into Paying More Child Support. Those Allegations Were Backed By Her Former Boss”

Although he ultimately left, she said she was scared of what he might do both to her and son Noah. “I know he has no problem with hurting people under 10,” she wrote in a statement, citing “what he had to do and deal with overseas.”

In a subsequent declaration to Thurston County Superior Court, Jared charged Ashley with using the allegations to coerce him into paying more child support.

Those allegations were backed by her former boss, Robert Wright, who had supervised Ashley when she worked as an office manager for a furniture store.

In a declaration, Wright wrote that Ashley told him “she would scream abuse and go to the military and she would get what she wants because he didn’t want to mess up his career.”

Nonetheless, a judge granted Ashley a temporary protection order against Jared.

The police, in contrast, determined there wasn’t probable cause to arrest him.

When an officer delivered the news, Ashley accused the cops of not “fucking doing anything” and threw the officer’s business card to the ground, according to his report.

That episode wasn’t nearly as dark as what came later.

“She Wouldn’t Let Him Leave The Army Because Of The Medical Benefits”

In June 2010, still married and living together again, the couple was fighting when Ashley screamed, according to an account Jared later told sheriff’s deputies: “You can’t satisfy me as a husband and your job is worthless!”

Jared “snapped,” he admitted to the deputies. He flipped the mattress over, grabbed her by the neck, and yelled that “what he does is important and he has had to see and do terrible things for both his country and their family!”

His wife complained about his job, he added to the deputies, yet she wouldn’t let him leave the Army because of the medical benefits.

(That, of course, utterly contradicts what Ashley has said after his death, and she denies it.)

Jared told all this to the deputies a week later when they were summoned to the couple's house by a 911 call, presumably from Ashley, reporting a suicide threat.

The officers found Jared boozy but calm, and denying thoughts of suicide.

According to Jared's account to police, he and his wife were both angry, and something he said set her off. "I wish you had died in the streets of Iraq, or would just kill yourself!" he said his wife yelled, and not for the first time.

Jared sat for a while, fuming. Then, he told the officers, he went upstairs to "prove a point." He grabbed what he said was an unloaded rifle from the bedroom and tried to force the gun into Ashley's hands.

"Is this what you want?" he asked his wife. "Since you want me dead, you should at least have some appreciation for what it's like to pull the trigger yourself on another human being."

In Ashley's version of events, the gun was loaded and he was urging her to shoot him, saying he actually wanted to die.

As for the ugly words she supposedly said, she says today that she had only once intimated that she wished he was dead, and that was years prior when in an alcoholic rage he had twisted her wrists and threatened her with a knife. "He never let me forget it," she says.

Ashley's mother says she thinks she understands why her daughter might have sometimes lashed out at her husband. "He would hurt her physically. She couldn't do that. So she would use words." Joppa says that she and her husband, who served in the first Gulf War, had the same dynamic when he was in the military.

PTSD doesn't just affect the soldier, Joppa says. "It also affects the wives and the children. It tears them apart."

While there were times that law enforcement couldn't sort out whether Jared really was abusive, and Ashley's angry and erratic behavior with officers didn't help her credibility, on at least one August night last year the evidence of violence was unmistakable. It was in the sink—a fistful of her hair that he had pulled out.

Reeking of alcohol when the officers got there, he told them he had been going through his wife's phone and found numbers that he didn't recognize. He started questioning her and they fought, leading her (he said) to grab and scratch him, and him (they both said) to break down the pantry door in addition to going for her hair.

After he was arrested for yanking out Ashley's hair, he worked out a deal with the Thurston County Prosecutor's Office that would have resulted in the charges being dropped after he completed a two-year "diversion" program. The court also imposed a "no contact" order until 2015 to separate him and his wife, according to prosecutors' records.

But "we didn't want it," Ashley says. Despite the couple's bitter battles, they were drawn to each other. "She always told me she didn't know what she'd do without him," says

Ashley's mother. Jared, during his 2009 breakdown, told Madigan staff that his primary goal was improving his relationship with his wife.

Set to deploy again in October 2010, he and his wife persuaded the court to let them communicate while they made arrangements. Three months later, in Afghanistan, he was promoted to staff sergeant. He re-enlisted that month.

Ashley says she was dead-set against it, but her husband cited the advantages. He would receive a \$10,000 re-enlistment bonus, which could be used to replace one of the couple's two broken-down cars. And according to Ashley, Jared's commanders promised him that he would be put in a non-deployable position when he came home, and given six months off to go to school.

She charges that the Army reneged on that agreement when he got back and was switched to a new unit, led by a commander who felt he needed the soldier overseas.

Brian DeSantis, a spokesperson for the 75th Ranger Regiment, to which Jared belonged, counters that Jared was offered a couple of non-deployable positions at Fort Benning in Georgia. "He turned them down," DeSantis says. "He wanted to stay at Joint Base Lewis-McChord."

In any case, Ashley concedes that her husband had another reason for staying: He couldn't find a job worth leaving the military for. He had been looking, she says. But the recession was in full swing, and the only job he could get in the civilian world was at the very bottom.

In June of this year, Jared faced the consequences of sticking with the Army: He was to go back overseas in two months. This time, according to Ashley and her mother, he seemed unable to rally himself. Switching to a new unit—bereft of the buddies who had made Iraq and Afghanistan feel like home and, as Ashley portrays it, led by an unsympathetic commander—had been a blow. He had held a gun to his head at least three times, according to Ashley.

"He kept saying he couldn't do it anymore," recalls Joppa. "He was done."

He apparently also feared coming home once again to "nothing."

"He was afraid that Ashley was going to leave him," Joppa says. "I tried to reassure him. But he said, no, he wasn't going to go overseas. If anybody came after him, he was going to take as many of them down with him as he could."

DeSantis insists Jared never expressed these sentiments to his superiors. The Rangers' spokesperson says he talked to Jared's battalion commander in the firestorm after the soldier's death. "Brian, he never asked not to deploy," he says the commander told him.

On Father's Day, Jared seemed in better form. He took his family to Great Wolf Lodge, the water-park resort south of Olympia. Although the no-contact order was still in effect, and he was officially living at the barracks, he saw his family frequently.

But the following Friday, as Ashley tells the story, he became irate. He called her on her cell phone while she was driving back from the base, where she had been getting permit stickers for her car. She told her husband she couldn't talk.

When she got home, she found that he had suspended her cell-phone account. Without another phone, she went to her mother's house to call Jared. They fought, then she and her mom fought.

Joppa doesn't remember the details, but guesses she said something like "You guys need to pull yourself together," which she had been saying for some time. "War does ugly things to people," she'd tell her daughter. "We can't understand because we're not over there."

Joppa says she went to do something, and "all of a sudden," her daughter was gone. Ashley left without taking the kids or telling them she was leaving. Then Noah disappeared, prompting Joppa to call 911. When the boy turned up at a nearby park, he said he had gone looking for his mother.

Ashley, on the other hand, did not reappear so quickly. Joppa called Jared to let him know. That night, the soldier showed up at Joppa's door and told her he wanted to take the kids to his parents' house in California. Joppa hesitated. "But I decided, 'Well, with all the stuff going on around here, maybe it's best.' "

"He was really emotional," Joppa recalls. "He kissed my cheek, and thanked me for everything I had done to help the kids and Ashley. It was almost like a good-bye. I thought, 'Oh you know, he's just upset.' I brushed it off." Jared delivered the children to his parents, who at his request had driven north to get them.

The next day, Joppa called 911 to report her daughter missing and—ironically, given what came later—possibly suicidal. "Told her friends that she wants it all to end and she doesn't want her children anymore," reads the 911 report.

"I never said that," insists Ashley, blaming the mischaracterization on a former friend. "I said that I wanted it all to stop. I didn't want to live like that anymore."

She describes her disappearance by saying she needed time away to think. "I didn't know where I was going to go." She considered the ocean, she says, then went to stay with a high-school friend.

Jared, meanwhile, was calling friends, neighbors, and Child Protective Services to tell them that his wife had abandoned the children and was having an affair, according to Ashley.

Sometimes, she says, he would pretend to be a detective.

On Sunday she returned to her mother's house. She was livid, as she would tell a sheriff's deputy that day, that her husband had "stolen" the children.

The deputy called Jared. "Jared was not willing to work with me when I asked for his assistance in returning the children," he wrote in his report. The soldier was also "upset" and "aware that he could be facing criminal charges."

His military career, whether he wanted it or not, was once again threatened.

Maybe it was in that phone call that Jared announced he was going to “blow his head off.”

It’s not clear from the police records, but Ashley and her mom say such an exchange occurred. The two women and the deputy were at Joppa’s house.

Joppa spoke to Jared first. “He was screaming,” she says, and he told her he was holding a .350 Magnum to his head.

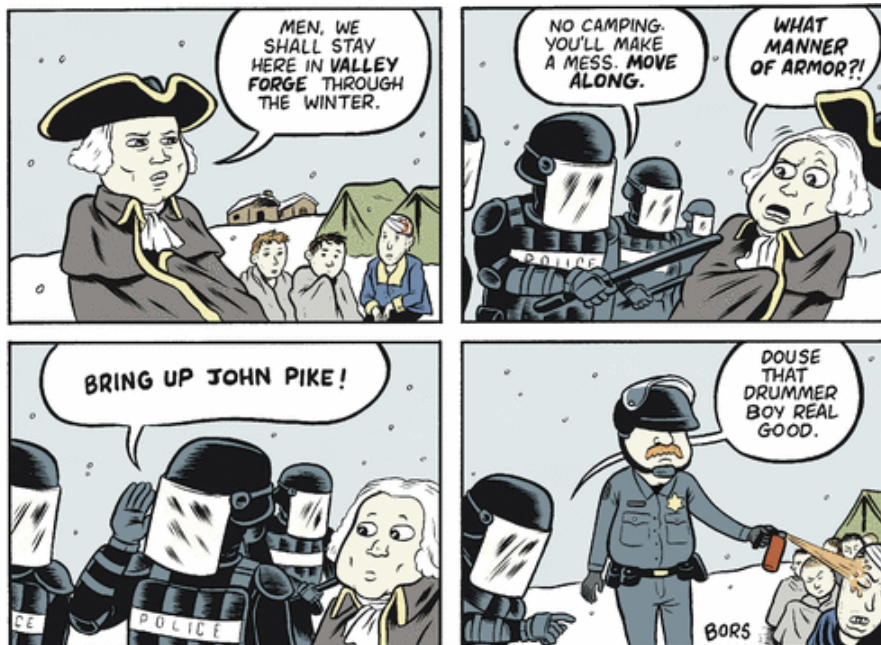
Joppa handed the phone to the deputy, something she later came to regret. “There was no compassion,” she says. By her and her daughter’s account, the deputy told the deranged soldier to “man up.”

Ashley filed for her last protection order the next day, Monday. “I was afraid he was going to come after me,” she says.

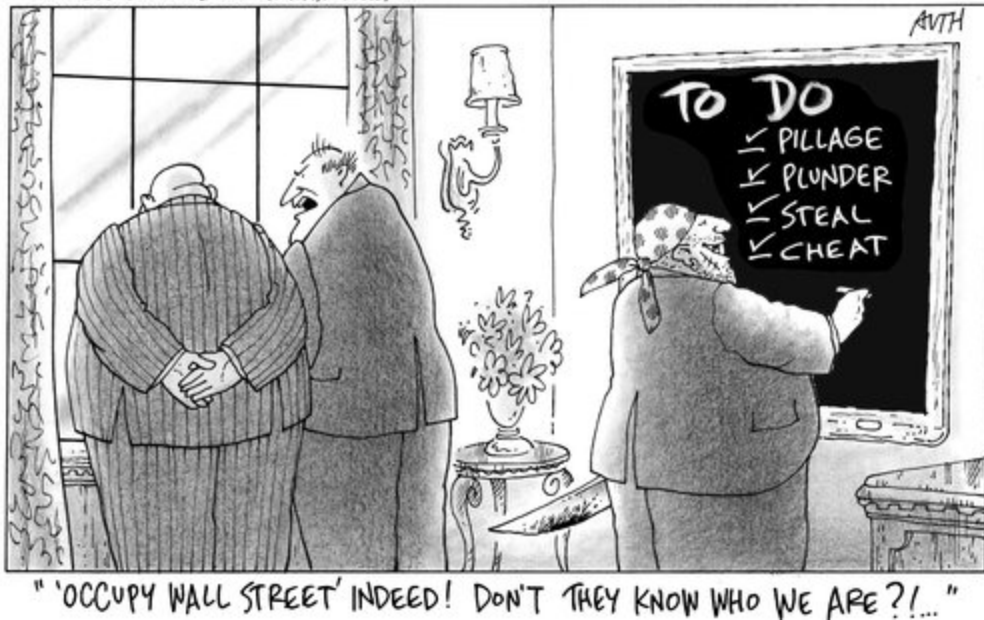
But Jared couldn’t be served.

By Tuesday, he was dead.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



NY City Cops Caught In Raving Racist Rants Against West Indians: They Call People “Animals” And “Savages” “One Comment Said, ‘Drop A Bomb And Wipe Them All Out’”

6 December 2011 by William Glaberson, The New York Times [Excerpts]

They called people “animals” and “savages.” One comment said, “Drop a bomb and wipe them all out.”

Hearing New York police officers speak publicly but candidly about one another and the people they police is rare indeed, especially with their names attached. But for a few days in September, a raw and rude conversation among officers was on Facebook for the world to see — until it vanished for unknown reasons.

Some of the remarks appeared to have broken Police Department rules barring officers from “discourteous or disrespectful remarks” about race or ethnicity.

The subject was officers’ loathing of being assigned to the West Indian American Day Parade in Brooklyn, an annual multiday event that unfolds over the Labor Day weekend and that has been marred by episodes of violence, including deaths of paradegoers.

Those who posted comments appeared to follow Facebook’s policy requiring the use of real names, and some identified themselves as officers.

The comments in the online group, which grew over a few days to some 1,200 members, were at times so offensive in referring to West Indian and African-American neighborhoods that some participants warned others to beware how their words might be taken in a public setting open to Internal Affairs “rats.”

But some of the people who posted comments seemed emboldened by Facebook’s freewheeling atmosphere.

“Let them kill each other,” wrote one of the Facebook members who posted comments under a name that matched that of a police officer.

“Filth,” wrote a commenter who identified himself as Nick Virgilio, another participant whose name matched that of a police officer.

“It’s not racist if it’s true,” yet another wrote.

Efforts were made to contact some of those who participated through the Police Department, through the prosecutor in a court case that revealed the existence of the group, through Facebook messages and through other methods.

One, Nick Virgilio, said he was a member of the department but responded, “I don’t wish to comment.”

“Why is everyone calling this a parade,” one said. “It’s a scheduled riot.” Another said: “We were widely outnumbered. It was an eerie feeling knowing we could be overrun at any moment.”

“Welcome to the Liberal NYC Gale,” said another, “where if the cops sneeze too loud they get investigated for excessive force but the ‘civilians’ can run around like savages and there are no repercussions.”

“They can keep the forced overtime,” said one writer, adding that the safety of officers comes “before the animals.”

Wrote another: “Bloodbath!!! The worst detail to work.”

“I say have the parade one more year,” wrote a commenter who identified himself as Dan Rodney, “and when they all gather drop a bomb and wipe them all out.”

Reached on Monday, Mr. Rodney confirmed that he was a police officer and that he had used Facebook, though rarely, but denied making the comment. “That wasn’t me,” he said before suggesting that someone else might have been responsible. “I leave my phone around sometimes. Other than that I have no comment.”

The page — though visible to any Facebook user before it vanished into the digital ether — appears to have drawn no public notice until an obscure criminal case in State Supreme Court in Brooklyn last month, the gun possession trial of an out-of-work Brooklyn food-service worker named Tyrone Johnson.

His defense lawyers put many of the controversial remarks before the jury. But when that too seemed to draw little notice outside the courthouse, the lawyers, Benjamin Moore and Paul Lieberman of Brooklyn Defender Services, provided a digital copy of the Facebook conversation to The Times, saying it raised broad questions about police attitudes.

While preparing for the trial, Mr. Moore checked to see if the officer who had arrested his client, Sgt. Dustin Edwards, was on Facebook. He was.

The group’s title, “No More West Indian Day Detail,” attracted Mr. Moore’s attention because Sergeant Edwards had arrested Mr. Johnson in the predawn hours of the celebrations before the parade in 2010.

Mr. Moore said that when he clicked on the link — the page was apparently public — and began reading a conversation that ran 70 printed pages, he was struck by what seemed to be its reckless explicitness.

“I found it astounding,” he said. He made a digital copy. When he looked two days later, all trace of the group was gone.

At the trial, the defense lawyers argued that the gun Sergeant Edwards said he found near their client had not belonged to Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson is black and lived in the parade area. The defense suggested that Sergeant Edwards might have planted the gun.

Sergeant Edwards testified he had never posted a comment on the group that protested the West Indian Day detail. He said his involvement had amounted to nothing more than clicking on the name of the group that included “a lot of the people in another police group that I’m in.”

A prosecutor, Lindsay Zuflacht, argued that with no posts from Sergeant Edwards, there was “nothing to indicate that he feels at all the same.”

The sergeant did testify, however, that he agreed with the statement that police officers were forced each year to become victims of the violence of the West Indian Day parade.

At the trial, the prosecutor read the jurors one of the cautionary postings that was on Facebook.

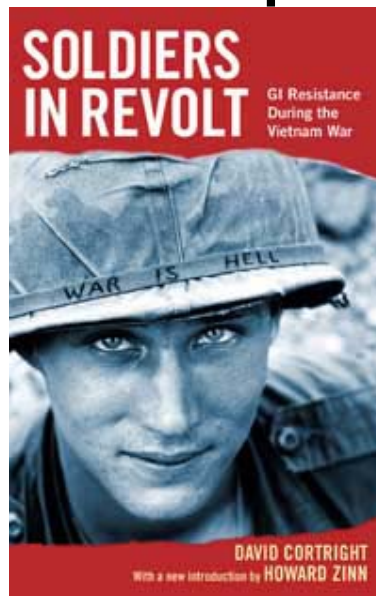
“Please keep it focused,” the post said. “This is not a racist rant. This is about us, the cops.”

On Nov. 21, the jury acquitted Mr. Johnson.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

FREE TO ACTIVE DUTY: A Vietnam Soldier Wrote The Book All About How An Armed Forces Rebellion Stopped An Imperial War



SOLDIERS IN REVOLT: DAVID CORTRIGHT

**[CIVILIANS: \$16 INCLUDING POSTAGE:
BUY ONE FOR A FRIEND/RELATIVE IN THE SERVICE.
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: THE MILITARY
PROJECT]**

**Requests from active duty or
orders from civilians to:**

Military Resistance
Box 126
2576 Broadway
New York, N.Y.
10025-5657



**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

Military Resistance Looks Even Better Printed Out

Military Resistance/GI Special are archived at website

<http://www.militaryproject.org> .

The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

<http://williambowles.info/military-resistance-archives/>; news@uruknet.info;

http://www.traprockpeace.org/gi_special/;

<http://www.albasrah.net/pages/mod.php?header=res1&mod=gis&rep=gis>

Military Resistance distributes and posts to our website copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in an effort to advance understanding of the invasion and occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law since it is being distributed **without charge or profit** for educational purposes to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes, in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. **Military Resistance has no affiliation whatsoever with the originator of these articles nor is Military Resistance endorsed or sponsored by the originators. This attributed work is provided a non-profit basis to facilitate understanding, research, education, and the advancement of human rights and social justice.** Go to: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml for more information. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

If printed out, a copy of this newsletter is your personal property and cannot legally be confiscated from you. "Possession of unauthorized material may not be prohibited." DoD Directive 1325.6 Section 3.5.1.2.